

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 JUSE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 FBIE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173789

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, US

SUBJECT: SECOND MEETING WITH ZAMBIAN CHARGE ON SOGHOIAN

ARREST CASE

REF: STATE 172645

1. AT REQUEST OF ZAMBIAN CHARGE SIYOLWE, AF/E DIRECTOR COOTE AND ZAMBIAN COUNTRY OFFICER MET WITH SIYOLWE AND FIRST SECRETARY ON AUGUST 30 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION SOGHOIAN CASE.

2. CHARGE LED OFF BY SAYING THAT ON INSTRUCTIONS HIS GOVERNMENT HE WISHED TO INFORM US THAT FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL MILNER DENIED EVER HAVING DISCUSSED SOGHOIAN'S ACTIVITIES OR INDICATED INTEREST IN HIS WHEREABOUTS IN ANY CONVERSATION WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR. WHEN QUERIED IF THIS MEANT THAT MILNER HAD NEVER HAD ANY CONVERSATION ABOUT SOGHOIAN OR HIS ACTIVITIES WITH AMBASSADOR, CHARGE SAID ONLY THAT CONVERSATION ABOUT SOMEONE COULD NOT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT MENTION THAT PERSON'S ACTIVITIES.

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3. CHARGE THEN STATED THAT SOGHOIAN WAS INDEED AN EMPLOYEE OF THE GRZ AND THAT HIS ACTIVITIES IN U.S. WERE GOVERNED BY PERFECTLY PROPER INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN HIM BY THE GRZ. SOGHOIAN'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE "TO STUDY THE MARKET POTENTIAL IN THE ELECTRONICS FIELD IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE FOR THE PURPOSES OF ZAMBIA'S ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY IN

RELATION TO THE COPPER INDUSTRY BUT ALSO IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER INDUSTRIES INCLUDING THE RADIO INDUSTRY. HIS INSTRUCTIONS ALSO COVERED PROCUREMENT AND EXPORT TO ZAMBIA OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT UNDER USG LICENCE."

4. CONTINUING, SIYOLWE SAID THAT THE GRZ WAS VERY DISTURBED AT THE WAY THE MATTER HAD BEEN HANDLED. SPECIFICALLY, HE NOTED THAT NEITHER GRZ NOR ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN ADVISED OF ARREST UNTIL HOURS AFTER RELEASE OF FBI STATEMENT. HE WONDERED WHETHER HANDLING OF MATTER INDICATED "DELIBERATE MOVE BY USG TO EMBARASS GRZ." COOTE AGAIN EXPRESSED OUR REGRET AT MANNER IN WHICH ARREST HAD BEEN HANDLED, SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO PUBLICITY ADVERSE TO ZAMBIA THAT HAD DEVELOPED AND STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT USG HAD ABSOLUTELY NO DESIRE EMBARASS GRZ, ITS PRESIDENT OR ZAMBIA.

5. NEXT SIYOLWE ALLUDED TO PRESS REPORT WHICH HAD MENTIONED ZAMBIAN EMBASSY WAREHOUSE IN MARYLAND. SIYOLWE SAID THAT THE GRZ BELIEVES THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT TO KEEP EXISTENCE OF IT FROM USG WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN AWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE AND FACT THAT IT GRZ PROPERTY.

6. CHARGE THEN TURNED TO SUBJECT OF MONEY SEIZED DURING ARREST AND LATER SEARCH OF SOGHOIAN'S QUARTERS. HE STATED THAT FUNDS SEIZED HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO SOGHOIAN BY GRZ FOR PROCUREMENT PURPOSES, THAT GRZ NOW EXERCISING FORMAL CLAIM TO FUNDS SEIZED AND REQUESTS THEIR RETURN TO GRZ. COOTE PROMISED CONVEY THIS POINT TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

7. COOTE INDICATED THAT WE HAD STRESSED TO JUSTICE OFFICIALS THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO AVOID BRINGING PRESIDENT'S NAME INTO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, TO WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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JUSTICE HAD AGREED. CHARGE REMARKED THAT GRZ WILLING TO ACCEPT SOGHOIAN CHARACTERIZATION OF HIMSELF AS PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S "RIGHT-HAND MAN" IN SENSE THAT NATIONALS OF ANY COUNTRY WHO ARE FRIENDLY TO ZAMBIA ALL CONSIDERED RIGHT-HAND MEN OF PRESIDENT'S.

8. CHARGE MADE POINT THAT GRZ HAD NO INTENTION AT ANY TIME TO INTERFERE IN U.S. LEGAL MATTER BUT WISHED

SOGHOIAN TO BE TREATED FAIRLY.

9. COOTE SAID DEPARTMENT WAS IN PROCESS OF OBTAINING
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM DEPT OF JUSTICE WHICH WOULD BE
CONVEYED TO CHARGE WHEN RECEIVED.

10. FYI: DEPARTMENT INFORMED THAT HEARING TODAY RESULTED
IN LOWERING OF SOGHOIAN BOND TO DOLLARS 100,000 AND THAT
HE WAS EXPECTED BE ABLE POST THIS BY LATE AFTERNOON OR
EVENING AUGUST 30. ROGERS

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